

Response from the City of Dallas, Texas
Dallas Police Department's Missing Persons Squad
3/26/03

**RESPONSE TO
THE CITY OF DETROIT
QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. The Missing Person's Squad does not have a separate budget. We are considered in with several other units within the Youth and Family Support Division.
2. We have six (6) detectives assigned to the Missing Person's Squad. Our detectives hold the rank of Senior Corporal. They have an immediate supervisor in the rank of Sergeant and a Unit Commander with the rank of Lieutenant.
3. There are no direct divisional cost related to the recovery of a missing person. However, any officer working pass their assigned duty hours are eligible for overtime pay, which is taken out of the officer's assigned divisional budget.
4. For the 2001-2002 year Missing Persons handle over 7,477 cases, of which 7,386 were cleared.
5. Currently we track the annual number of missing persons based on the categories of a runaway (child) or a want to locate (adult).
6. The policy of the Dallas Police Department is to exhaust every source of information to correctly resolve each case in a timely matter.
7. Same as #6.
8. There are no current proposals or initiatives to change our current policies involving missing persons or runaways.
9. Missing Persons and Youth Operations detectives, along with Patrol Officers, work very well together in following up on all possible leads involving missing persons. An example would be when working a confirmed Critical Missing. (A Critical Missing would be an elderly person age seventy (70) or above with a severe medical condition, or a child age nine (9) or below). Patrol will receive the initial call and notify Youth Division that they have a confirmed Critical Missing. Our detectives will respond to the location and all will work together in knocking on doors, searching fields and creeks, or using other investigative tools necessary to bring the case to a speedy resolution. In other cases, such as runaways or want to locate reports, detectives will place their investigative notes on the computer in the form of a supplement to the initial report. Patrol has access to this information from their MDT's (Mobile Digital Terminals), computers inside of the squad cars.
10. The number of cases assigned to each detective are tracked daily with an assignment log. This information is computed at the end of each month and can be done manually or by computer, depending on the desired method of that divisional commander.
11. The Dallas Police General Orders are written in direct correlation to the Missing Person's SOP, but does not spell the investigation process that is included in the divisional SOP.